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POL 23-9 Libya R/58

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INFO AMCONSUL BAIDA
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AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY ROME

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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SUBJECT: FIRST SOVIET EDITORIAL REACTION TO LIBYAN COUP CAUTIOUS

REF: MOSCOW 4727 POL 23-9 Libya

1. THE FIRST SOVIET COMMENTARY ON LIBYA GREETS THE NEW REGIME BUT WARNS THAT BEDOUIN TRIBES, SUPPORTED BY WESTERN IMPERIALISTS, COULD RISE UP IN SUPPORT OF KING IDRISS.

2. IGOR BELYAYEV, WRITING IN PRAVDA FOR SEPTEMBER 6, DESCRIBED LIBYAN COUP AS AN SXPHJTANT EVENT WHICH WILL STRENGTHEN THE RANKS OF PROGRESSIVE REGIMES IN ME AND EHLP ANTI-ISRAELI FORCES.

3. WHILE BELYAYEV NOTES THAT ARNY IS IN CONTROL AND HAS WIDE POPULAR SUPPORT IN TRIPOLI, HE WARNS THAT KING IDRISS WAS VERY SYMPATHETIC TO BEDOUIN TRIBESMEN WHO MAY NOW STIR UP TROUBLE "WITH IMPERIALIST HELP."

4. BELYAYEV IMPLICITLY APPROVES OF LIBYAN ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THERE WILL BE NO INTERFERENCE WITH FOREIGNERS OR FOREIGN OIL COMPANIES "WHICH WILL AVOID ANY EXCUSES FOR IMPERIALIST INTER-

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VENTION."

5. COMMENT: IT SEEMS CLEAR FROM THE PRESS AND COMMENTS OF A FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL (REFTEL) THAT THE SOVIETS ARE BY NO MEANS CONFIDENT THAT NEW LIBYAN REGIME IS HOME FREE YET.

DECONTROL AFTER SEPT 6, 1970.
KLOSSON

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